



# **Strengthening the role of FARI in Science to Policy Platform**

# FARI

- The Forum was established according to the decision of the Fourth Meeting of the Contracting Parties to the Nairobi Convention, which was held in Madagascar in July 2004.
- “To provide the National focal points of the Contracting Parties to the Nairobi Convention, with capacity for assessing and reporting on progress and gaps for research (assessment) and management of the coastal and marine environment” and specifically to create mechanisms whereby heads of marine research institutes and university departments can report on, communicate and discuss topics of mutual interest specifically relating to scientific endeavour in terms of supporting the objectives of the Nairobi Convention.

FARI provides a framework for:

- Facilitating sharing of information between institutions and the Nairobi Convention and other regional processes
- Offering scientific and technical advice on priorities for management, assessment and information dissemination to the regional initiatives
- Enhancing cooperation among universities and research institutions in the region;
- Coordinating and facilitate identification of opportunities for collaborative research
- Serving as pressure point for enforcing sustainable utilization of coastal and marine resources

# FARI's objectives

- To communicate, collaborate and co-operate in support of marine and coastal research that contributes towards the wise use of marine and coastal resources and the provision of sustainable opportunities for people of the Western Indian Ocean region, in a healthy environment, and
- To provide advice to the Nairobi Convention and its Contracting Parties, in the assessment, monitoring and science-based management of marine and coastal environment of the Western Indian Ocean region.

# Roles and Responsibilities

Provide a peer review of documents produced from the Work Programme of the Nairobi Convention.

Identify relevant and emerging fields of *research* that require remedial or policy action.

- ▶ Highlight urgent or emerging *issues* arising from science that require management action.
- ▶ Promote the application of new technologies and innovative research approaches.
- ▶ Provide expert technical support in the peer review of development projects, management decisions and policies.
- ▶ Facilitate the sharing and exchange of data and information between partners and stakeholders.
- ▶ Stimulate high quality science by facilitating the undertaking of co-operative national, regional and international scientific research programmes.
- ▶ Contribute to the capacity and career development, inter alia, through benchmarking and facilitating training opportunities, including for young scientists.
- ▶ Contribute to the policy and practice of ethics in research in marine science, by acting as honest brokers and through science advocacy.
- ▶ Advocate for good practice in the protection of intellectual property rights (IPR) and showcasing where research has been successfully commercialised as a result of effective management of IPR.
- ▶ Provide support to the preparation of the Nairobi Convention's Work Programme and also reviewing, debating and assessing the activities undertaken by, or under, the auspices of the Nairobi Convention.

# Specific roles

## **FARI and the Proposed Science to Policy Platform**

- the FARI is expected to provide the necessary information for evidenced-based decision making and for the platform's primary role of knowledge generation and dissemination as well as dialogue and consensus building.

## **FARI and the SAPPHIRE and WIO-SAP Projects**

- For WIO-SAP the following are some of the roles that have been proposed for the FARI:
- Advice on constitution of task forces/working groups;
- Reviewing and validation of project documentation as well as project proposals at the regional level (the latter to be done by the National FARI);
- Provision of technical support to countries to develop demonstration projects;
- Participation in the national project committees;
- Resource mobilization to support follow-up activities;
- Coordinate/support the preparation of outlooks, regional state of coast report, etc.;
- Contribute to the development of area-based planning tools;
- Reporting to the meeting of the Contracting Parties to the Nairobi Convention.

# Membership

- Membership is institutional and different experts of a member institution can attend the meetings of the FARI depending on the issue or issues under discussion. The invitation letter to any FARI meeting shall be addressed to the Head of the Institution and shall be explicit about the expertise required.
- Academic and research institutions will submit a full list of all relevant staff and their profiles through an application form will be obtained from WIOMSA as the Secretariat of FARI.

Membership is open to:

- Research institutions in countries that are Contracting Parties to the Nairobi Convention and working in the coastal and marine sector in the Western Indian Ocean (WIO) region.
- Academic institutions in countries that are Contracting Parties to the Nairobi Convention and that have departments with relevant expertise in the assessment and management of the coastal and marine sector in the WIO region.
- Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs) registered in any of the Contracting Parties that is a member of WIOMSA, and is working in the coastal and marine sector in the WIO region may apply for membership following endorsement by the Nairobi Conventions National Focal Point Institution.

# Issues for discussion

- FARI Membership
- National leadership of FARI/National focal institutions/nodes
- How to amplify FARI's role in the platform
- Quality assurance of NC products
- Better communication
- FARI leadership on
  - Ocean Acidification
  - Marine litter/microbeads
  - Mitigation Hierarchy